three years till date for strict implementation of the penal provisions in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 in this regard ?

THE "DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS)i (a) and (b) There have been news-paper rej>orts from time to time regarding screening of uncertified video films in con-travention of the provisions of the Cine-matograph Act, 1952. Such contraventions include exhibiting portions not shown to the Central Board of Film Certification or showing portions ordered by the Board for deletion or showing bits of a blue film.

(c) The responsibility for enforcing the penal provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 rests with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. They have'been requested, time and again. to strictly enforce the legal provisions. On 18-12-1991, a letter was sent to the Chief Ministers/Administrators of the States/ Union Territories, as the case may be. The replies received from them indicate that most of them have, in turn, taken up the matter with the law enforcing agencies for appropriate action in this regard.

Imposition of Licence fees on users of hired transponders

1259. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of transponders hired so for, from foreign satellites by the Indian agencies;

(b) what are the details thereof;

(c) whether transmission and receipts from such transponders affect the earnings of Doordarshan;

(d) if so, to what extent and what is the remedy for the same; and

(e) whether Government propose any schefinto impose certain amount as licence fees on transponder users to bring revenue to Government ?

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THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Government have eo far hired, for varying periods of time, transponders from the following agencies:

(i) INTELSAT . .	—3/4
(ii) INTERSPUTNIK .	—1
(iii) ARABSAT . . .	—12

(c) These transponders have been hired for use by Government agencies.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Norms for Coverage of Political Activities

1260. SHRI MENTAY PADMANA-BHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMA TION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received any reports from the public protesting against bias of the Hyderabad Doordarshan Kendra; and

(b) what are the norms laid down by Government for the coverage of the acti vities of political parties by Doordarshan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While telecasting news in respect of various political parties the following guidelines and norms are followed by Doordarshan:—

(i) Political activities are noticed based on their newsworthiness.

(ii) Unbiased reporting of the news in respect of all the political parties.

(iii) Coverage of differing view points in the same buHetin to the extent possible.

Coverage of important political programmes

1261. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pteasea to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have laid down specific norms regarding

coverage of the news relating to important programmes of various political parties on the network of radio and television in the country, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the news about the annual Session of Congress held at Tirupati from 14th—16th April, 1992 was broadcast/telecast on the electronic media of the country including some pre-publicity of the programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of days as well as the dates of the broadcast/telecast (including visual coverage) their duration and the timings of the bulletins put out for telecast/broadcast each day?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The following guidelines and norms laid down by the Government from time to time are followed by AkaBhwani and Doordarshan while broadcasting and telecasting news about political parties :—

(i) Political activities are noticed based on their news worthiness.

(ii) Unbiased reportings of the news in respect of all the political parties.

(iii) Coverage of differing view points in the same bulletin to the extent possible.

(iv) Avoiding in the news bulletin the use of labels such as "progressive" and "communal" etc.

(v) In case of controversy about nomenclature of a political party, following the name as approved by the Election Commission of India or by a Court of Law.

(vi) Coverage of political controversies based on objectivity and fair play.

(b) The Session was covered and tele cast in Doordarshan bulletins including a curtain raiser.

(c) and (d) Such details are not main tained centrally in a compiled form.

Putting ban on Pornographic Video Films

1262. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the country has been flooded with Pornographic Video Films and the film certification Board is also passing such films with nude scenes which are adversely affecting the minds of young generation in the country; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to put a ban and tackle the menace of porno-nude and obscene films in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) All films (including video films) intended for public exhibition in India are to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1962 and the Guidelines issued there under. The Board examines and certifies such films as are found to be suitable for public exhibition. The Board does not certify pornography or any film which otherwise violates the guidelines issued by the Central Government under the Cinema tograph Act, Exhibition of films, including video films, not duly certified by the Board, is an offence.

Newspapers have reported on occasions instances of films not shown in the form in which they are certified by the Board, but with interpolations. Such exhibition is an offence punishable under the Cinema-toglaph Act, 1962. However, the responsibility for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act m this regard rests with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. They have been repeatedly advised to strictly enforce these provisions of the law.

Pension to Working Journalists

1263. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Wilt the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: